



Member's Exchange

American Medallist Sculpture Association, 172 N. Plank Rd., P.O. Box 685, Newburgh, NY 12550

Vol. 10 No. 3 June 1997

President's Message

By Ann Shaper Pollack

I am honored to have been elected your President and thank you for your support.

I ask now for your help throughout the coming year in order to further AMSA's goals. In the 15 years since its founding, AMSA has encouraged the development of medallist sculpture through education, exhibitions, publications, and various activities that promote medallist art.

Our dedicated Executive Board and committee members are busy working on plans for exhibitions, programs, field trips, and workshops. These events provide medallist sculptors with opportunities for technical and artistic interchange and are mentioned in the hope that you will join us in some role.

On July 31, four AMSA members will speak in the Numismatic Theatre Program at the Ameri-

can Numismatic Association convention in New York City.

We have two exhibitions scheduled this fall. The first will be held from Sept. 14 to Oct. 10 at the Lautenberg Jewish Community Center in Whippany, N.J., and the second, a joint exhibition of AMSA and the British Art Medal Society (BAMS), will take place at the American Numismatic Society Museum in November.

During my term in office, I will make a concerted effort to increase our membership. I ask each member to bring in one new member. Welcome artists, collectors, dealers, students, members of the art community, and all who appreciate fine medallist sculpture.

As we prepare to enter the 21st century, you may follow our progress and activities in cyberspace by checking our AMSA website at <http://amsa.greenbee.net> and sending e-mail to amsa@greenbee.net

We are now attracting a worldwide audience.

Please feel free to contact me or any member of the board with your suggestions and ideas.



AMSA President Ann Shaper Pollack and her predecessor Amanullah Haiderzad.

AMSA officers announced

The AMSA officer elections were held recently and all members who had been nominated for office were elected. The officers are:

President: Ann Shaper Pollack

First Vice President: Jackie Lorieo

Second Vice President: John Molloy III

Secretary: Maryvonne Rosse

Treasurer: Bud Wertheim

Board of Directors:

1995-1998: Herbert Leopold

Barbara Yared

1996-1999: Gwen Marcus

Karen Worth

1997-2000: Yefkin Megherian

Marion Roller

Past presidents serving for 1997-98 on the board are: Amanullah Haiderzad, Don Everhart II, George Cuhaj, and Dr. Alan Stahl.

Additionally, Joseph Veach Noble was asked to serve as an advisor to the board and has accepted the position.

AMSA members to address ANA convention July 31

The American Numismatic Association's 106th Anniversary convention is scheduled to be held at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City July 30-August 3.

The convention has educational sessions, including speakers on many numismatic topics, in addition to dealers selling items and educational exhibits.

Four AMSA members are scheduled to speak at the Numismatic Theatre Program July 31.

Mashiko, a sculptor, independent curator, and senior lecturer at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Pa., will speak on "Opening Up." Mashiko said she is interested in opening up the possibilities of what collectors are willing to collect and what artists are interested in producing in medallic sculpture. She will emphasize that "medal" is a technical term about relief rather than a format of sculpture.

Sculptor and engraver **Virginia Janssen**, a graduate of the Italian Mint's Scuola Dell'Arte

Pella Medaglia, will speak on "Art Medals as the Century Turns: How, Where, and Why Collect Them?" She will provide a visual survey of contemporary art medals and the inspirations and processes behind them. Her program attempts to fit the medal into the history of 20th century art and to describe the joys of collecting pocketable art.

Dr. Ira Rezak is a professor of clinical medicine at the State University of New York in Stonybrook. He is a fellow of the American Numismatic Society and has collected medals for 40 years. Rezak's talk, entitled "Public Memory and Private Pleasure, The Medal Collected," will show how medals have long been an important expression of official recognition and commemoration. Rezak said that "a medal in hand permits its owner a sense of participation in past and present events, but also a taste of the perspective and control normally reserved for the powerful of the world. A collection of medals allows its possessor a private and individualized view of history."

Dr. Alan Stahl is a curator of medieval coins and medals at the American Numismatic Society. He has much teaching experience and has received many research grants and fellowships. In addition, Stahl is a past president of AMSA. Stahl will speak on "The 20th Century American Medal." The talk represents a survey of the American medal from the 1893 Columbian Exposition to the present with thoughts on future directions for medallists.

Although not scheduled at press time, there is the possibility that AMSA will exhibit the medals selected for the Lautenberg show during the convention.

AMSA officers

President:

Ann Shaper Pollack
4A Rose Ave.
Great Neck, NY 11021

Vice Presidents:

1st — Jacqueline Lorieo
693 Weaver St.
Larchmont, NY 10538
2nd — John Molloy III
56 S. Main St.
Essex, CT 06426

Board of Directors:

Herbert Leopold
Gwen Marcus
Yefkin Megherian
Marion Roller
Karen Worth
Barbara Yared

Treasurer:

E. Bud Wertheim
Covered Bridge Rd.
Livingston Manor, NY 12758

Secretary:

Maryvonne Rosse
431 Buena Vista Rd.
New City, NY 10956

Past Presidents:

George Cuhaj
Don Everhart
Amanullah Haiderzad
Dr. Alan Stahl

Advisor to the Board:

Joseph Veach Noble

Medals misplaced

Several medallic sculptures were misplaced at the recent Trout Run Medallic Art Camp held June 4-8 in Pennsylvania.

If you have found medals in your luggage that you cannot identify, please send them to Editor George Cuhaj, P.O. Box 433, Iola, WI 54945 and he will return them to their proper owners, no questions asked.

Member's Exchange

Editor: George Cuhaj **Designer:** Brent Frankenhoff

Contributions from: Ann Pollack, Bev Mazze, Maryvonne Rosse, Francis Simmons, and Cory Gilliland

AMSA website: <http://amsa.queenbee.net> **e-mail:** amsa@queenbee.net

Everhart addresses AMSA

By Maryvonne Rosse

On May 17, Don Everhart II told AMSA members how he made the Clinton/Gore 2nd Inaugural Medal.

Everhart said that during a recent slowdown in his professional occupation, he called Bob Hoff at the Tri-State Mint for "a bit of encouragement on the future of the state of the medal."

Hoff told him that things could be better and then called Everhart back later and suggested that he might make some designs for an eventual inaugural medal for Clinton/Gore.

Time was short, but Everhart managed to do some design sketches aided by specifications and prints of past inaugural medals sent by Hoff. After a lengthy approval process, Everhart obtained access to photos, clippings, and portraits from national archives. Other medallists were also competing for this assignment, Everhart added.

He said he visualized "a bridge to the future" or "an eagle with 51 stars" for the reverse and was happy when the eagle was chosen.

After settling on an appropriate pose, Everhart blocked in the portraits for the obverse on a smooth flat surface with Chavant J-88 plasteline which is quite a hard grade that had to be softened with a 50-



Don Everhart II and his Clinton/Gore inaugural medals and mold.

watt lamp to shape it.

Everhart traced his designs on an acetate that had a coated transparent side for making transfers and then cast the partially finished portraits. He made the mold by setting up a flexible strip (on edge) on the flat surface, following the line where the circumference or outer edge of the medal would be, which he braced with pieces of clay to keep it in place while the plaster was poured, thus producing a mold of the right depth and size with a negative of the portraits in it.

When the plaster was set, Everhart outlined the letters in their places by placing the acetate with his drawing on it right on the bottom of the mold in the right relation to the negative of the portraits. At that point, he said he could check for the correct outline of the portraits and, where needed, fix the background to his liking with a little sanding with wet 'n' dry abrasive cloth.

Great care was taking to make sure the lettering was transixed in the negative (backwards) so that the letters would read the right way on the positive cast.

For the reverse, Everhart went through the same process of casting and modeling to arrive at a perfect final model. It could then be done on the Janvier machine which would cut dies to strike medals of the intended size.

All the details of the reverse required some extra small molds such as one to press out the 51 stars to get them identical and a special one for the shield.

Throughout the process, Everhart had to hold on to his original intention while keeping it workable for reproduction. The specifications of the inaugural committee had to be accomodated and respected along the way.

Hoff sent both plasters and a finished bronze of the medal to the Democratic Committee for the judging by the President. Everhart said that it was worth all the effort because President Clinton chose his design from the five offered "and that while Hillary was in Bolivia!"

Art in the Hand Gallery closes

Tommy and Cory Gilliland have closed their Art in the Hand Gallery, formerly located at 9-C Aviles St., in St. Augustine, Fla., effective June 1. In a letter, Tom Gilliland wrote:

Last summer while giving a joint talk at an international sculpture conference in Switzerland, I said that Cory was responsible for the art part of our business while I handled the administrative duties, 'I carried out the trash and swept the sidewalk.' This drew a laugh because it was plain that we think running an art gallery is a lot of fun. We enjoy the art and the artists as well as just about everything else concerned with the business.

The fact though is that running an art gallery takes time, attention, lots of effort, and, of course, money.

Unfortunately, after two-and-one half years as company bookkeeper, I've found that the landlord has profited most from our activities.

I've discussed this plight with my banker, a trusted management analyst, and several good friends. The consensus is that if we want to remain in the art business we are going to have to significantly change our mode of operation in order to curtail the shortfalls we've been experiencing. We have found that St. Augustine tourists who visit Aviles Street aren't really heavy art buyers.

Simmons Gallery seeks submissions

Howard and Frances Simmons have opened a gallery specializing in medals and numismatic art in London, England, and are seeking consignments.

"Until now there has been nowhere you can go to buy modern medals in London, or indeed, anywhere else in Britain," the Simmonses wrote in a letter seeking the consignments. "Despite catalogues and the use of photography, picking up a medal, turning it over, and handing it to someone is the best method of selling it.

"The night of our gallery-warming party on 19 March, one of the guests bought his (and our!) first medal — Avril Vaughan's 'Giacometti,' 'because it's extraordinary and I've just got to have it.' Since then, we've had people walking in off the street and having similar reactions to contemporary work. Most never knew medals could be art, only state-produced propaganda. We need to develop that enthusiasm with new works."

The Simmons Gallery is located five minutes from the British Museum near Central Saint Martins School of Art, and "near the Inns of Court in an

area visited by lawyers, architects, designers, and other creative types," the Simmonses wrote, adding, "The gallery space has been designed by architect and medallist Simon Beeson (whom some of you will know as Nicola Moss' husband). It is quiet, light, and airy, and as one recent visitor exclaimed, an artwork in itself, exploring planes and surfaces volumes.

"We have a number of secure cabinets and recesses which can be easily accessed and there are places to sit and handle medals. It looks and feels like an art gallery, but is rather more intimate than most.

"Our aim is to have a constant display of contemporary medals, especially artists' medals. In keeping with our current practice, we sell directly from the display, so we would prefer multiples or a firm delivery date for orders."

A list of terms and conditions for consignment is available from The Simmons Gallery, 53 Lamb's Conduit St., London, WC1N 3N8 UK or by phoning 0171 831 2080. or faxing 0171 831 2090.

AMSA members do well at Pen and Brush Exhibition

The Pen and Brush, Inc., held its 51st Annual Sculpture and Medallion Art Exhibition April 11-29. A number of female AMSA members displayed in both the sculpture and medallion sections.

In the sculpture section, Edith Rae Brown, Helene Johnson, Margaret Manship, Gwen Marcus, Yefkin Megherian, Annette Needle, Sylvia Perle, Maryvonne Rosse, Adelaide T. Sundia, and Amy Unfried exhibited their works. Marcus received the Leonard J. Meiselman Memorial Award, while Rosse was awarded the Excalibur Foundry Award, and Sundia and Unfried received Honorable Mention Awards.

Joining Brown, Manship, Megherian, Perle, and Needle in the medallion section were AMSA members Virginia Janssen, Janice K. Loomis, Karen Martin, Ivanka Mincheva, Ann Pollack, Marion Roller, Jean Schonwalter, Jeanne Stevens-Sollman, Marika Somogyi, Patricia Verani, Karen Worth, and Barbara Yared. Worth received the Medallion Art Company Award and Yared was the recipient of the Charlotte Dunwoodie Medallion Art Award, while C.A. Brown Awards went to Schonwalter and Janssen and Honorable Mentions were awarded to Mincheva and Stevens-Sollman, leading to a clean sweep of the medallion awards by AMSA members.

Calendar

September 4-October 10: Exhibition at Lautenberg Center, Whippany, N.J.

September 20: AMSA Board Meeting, Pen & Brush, noon. General AMSA Meeting follows at 2 p.m.

October 18: AMSA Board Meeting, American Numismatic Society.

November 8-January 4: The Medal in America II — American Numismatic Society Conference.

November 8-January 4: BAMS-AMSA show — American Numismatic Society Conference. Submissions are due August 15.

November 15: AMSA Board Meeting, Pen & Brush, noon. General AMSA Meeting follows at 2 p.m.

December 6: AMSA Board Meeting, American Numismatic Society.

Submissions sought for fall AMSA show

Submissions are being sought for the AMSA show scheduled for September 4-October 10, 1997, at the Lautenberg Jewish Community Center in Whippany, N.J.

Exhibition chairperson Jacqueline Lorieo has noted two changes from the original show prospectus. Foreign members may send slides instead of actual work and the AMSA board recently increased the size of accepted medals from 10" to 12", but limited the number of medals accepted to one per artist.

While entries were due June 16 with jurying scheduled for June 21.

For more information on the show and a copy of the prospectus, contact Lorieo at (914) 834-7574.